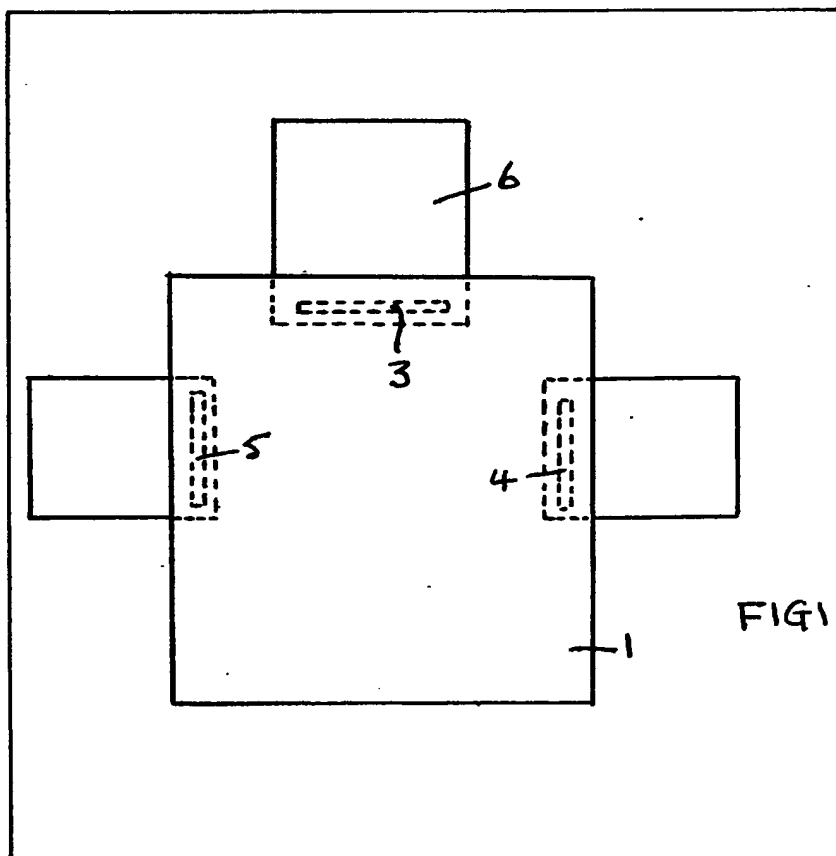


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(54) Duvets or the like

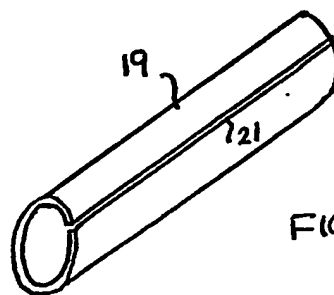
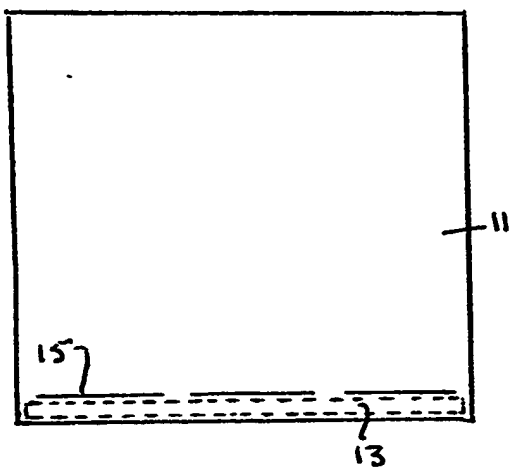
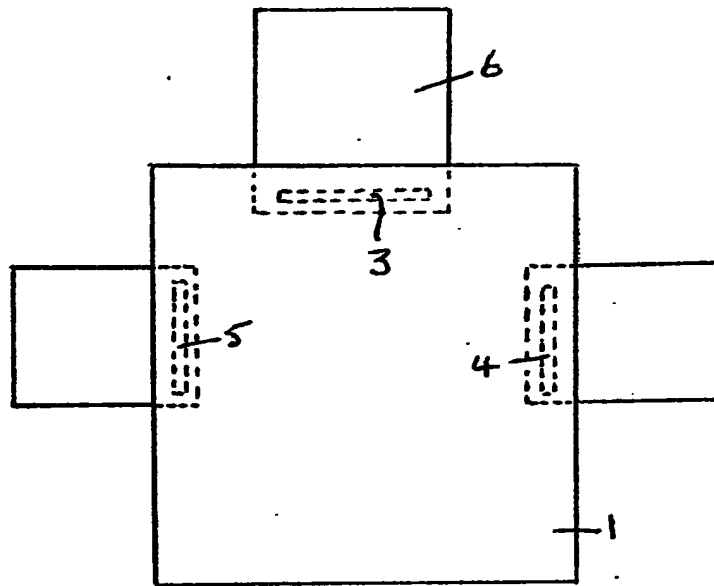
(57) A duvet, eiderdown or comforter or any similar quilt intended for location on a bed is provided with at least one permanently attached strip to which may be secured means, such as flaps, whereby the duvet may be restrained from movement relative to the bed. For instance, the flaps may be tucked between the mattress and the bed frame.



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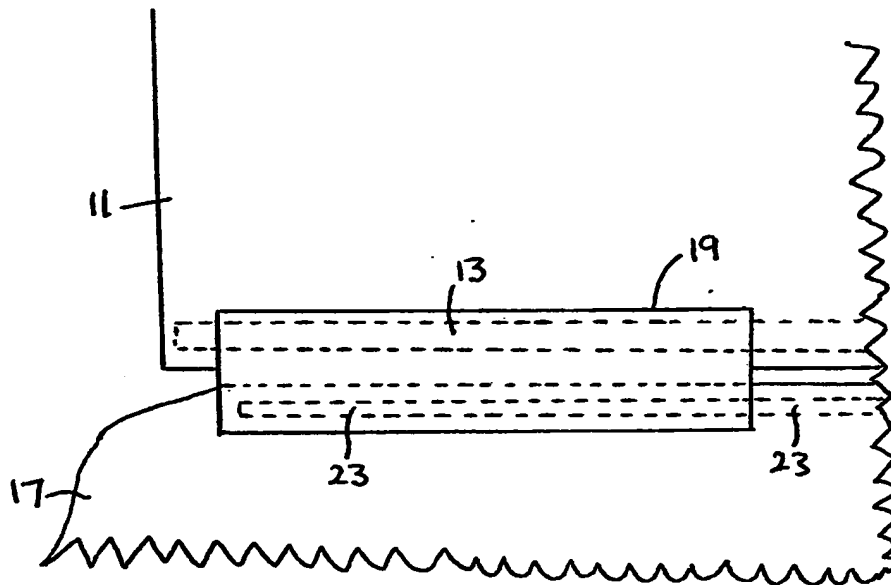


FIG 4

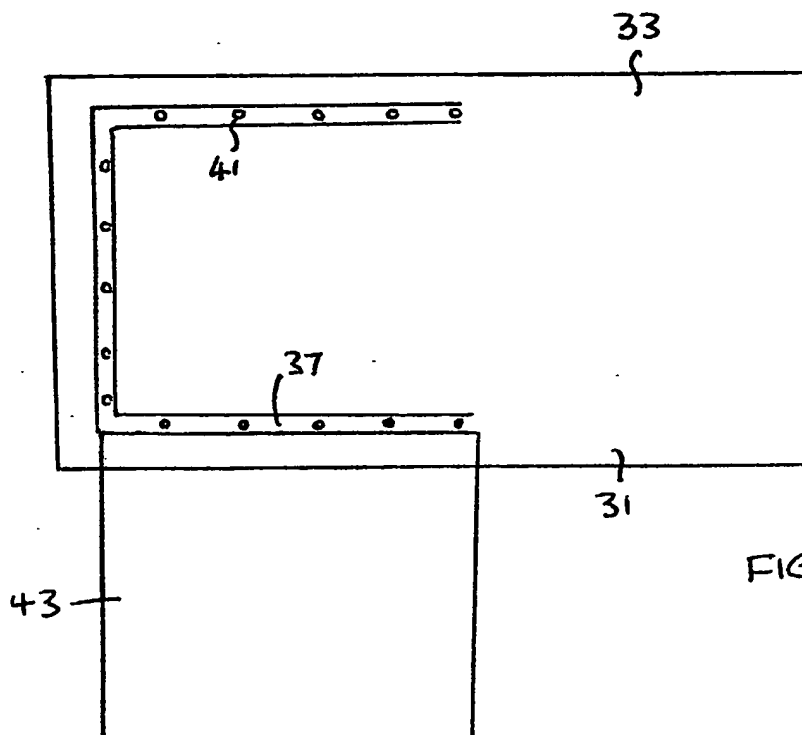
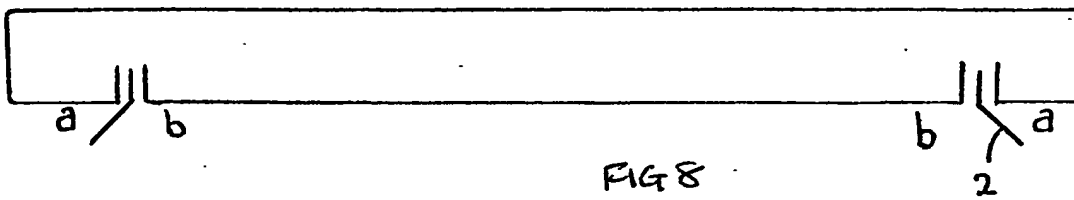
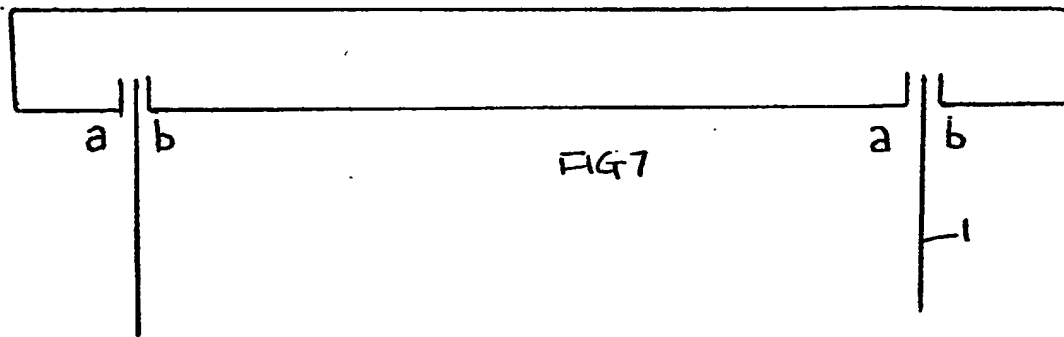
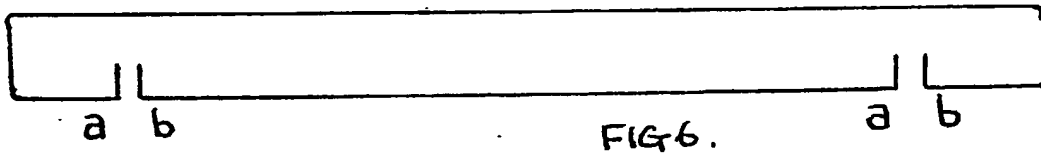
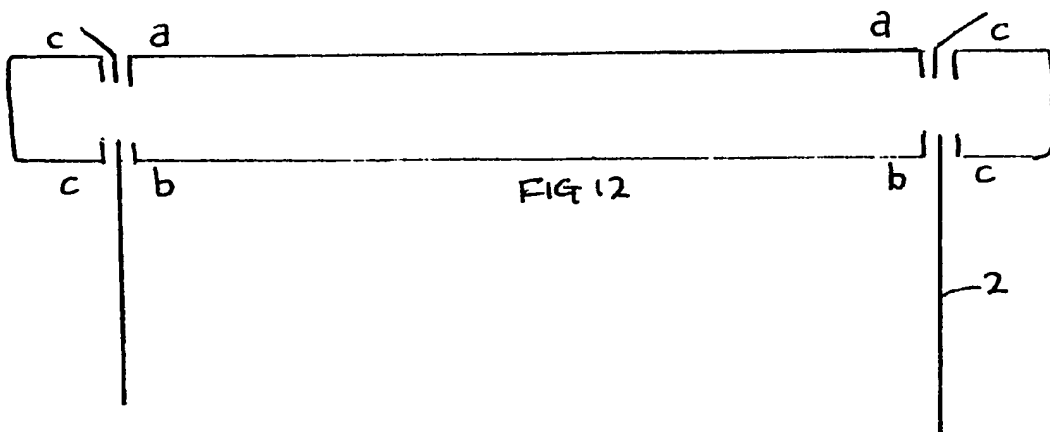
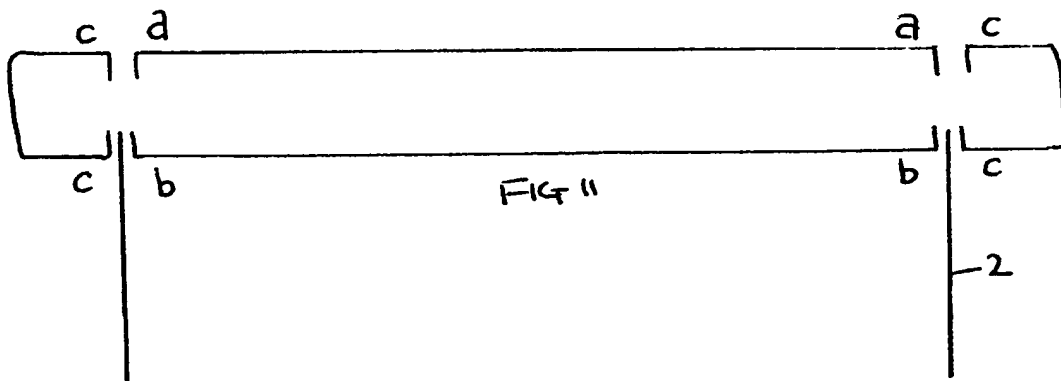
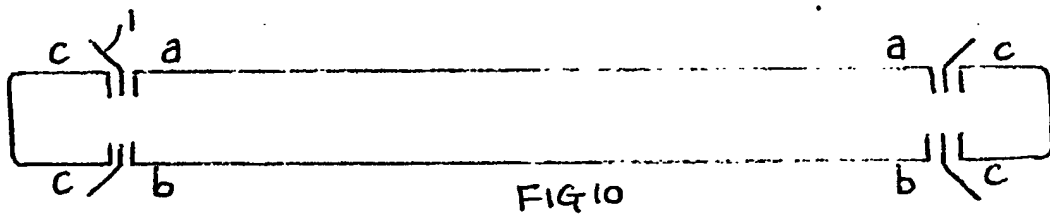
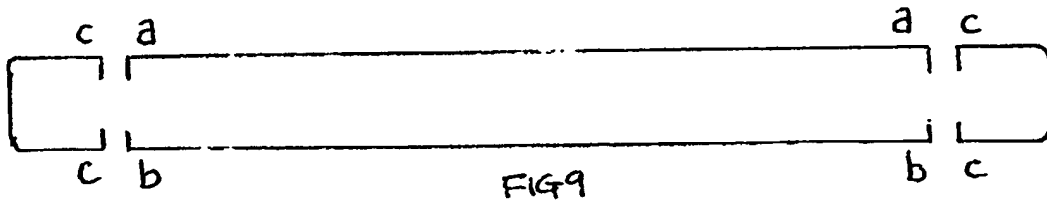


FIG 5

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SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to bedding

5 This invention relates to bedding and especially to items of bedding which are in the form of a filled cover intended to be positioned on top of the bed, for instance, duvets or continental quilts, eiderdowns and the U.S. originating comforters (similar to a duvet but somewhat larger relative the bed and therefore overhanging the bed more around the edges thereof). Reference will be made hereinafter to duvets although it should be understood that the present invention is applicable to all such items of bedding. Furthermore, a duvet is normally placed inside a removable cover and references to a duvet are applicable to the cover which may be made and sold separately.

20 A duvet is simply placed on top of the bottom bed sheet and pillow and often slips off the sleeping person. Furthermore the size of the duvet compared with the bed size results in the bed having an untidy appearance.

25 According to the present invention there is provided a duvet having means whereby the duvet may be attached to the bed along at least a portion of the edge, or part adjacent thereto, of the duvet. Alternatively the duvet may be provided with weighted attachments which simply hang down adjacent at least one side of the bed so as to reduce the tendency of the duvet to move relative to the bed.

30 The attachment means may be cords, fabric strips or the like which may be attachable to buttons, loops, hooks, toggles or the like which are fastened to the mattress cover or other part of the bed in positions corresponding to the positions of the duvet attachments. By joining duvet and mattress attachments together the movement of the duvet may be controlled to individual requirements.

35 The duvet may be provided with attachment means, for instance, hooks and a separate attachment member, for instance, a piece of webbing material extending substantially the width of the bed, may be located between the mattress and the bed frame. The duvet may then be attached to this separate member at the edges and, optionally, at the bottom thereof.

40 The duvet attachments may be strips of bedding fabric or the like, for instance, sheet material, which are attached to the duvet, the strips being of sufficient width and texture that when tucked between the mattress and the bed frame they will not easily be pulled out. Such strips may be attached to the sides of the duvet and also if desired to the bottom edge of the duvet. A continuous strip of material may be provided running down the sides and bottom of the duvet.

45 The duvet may be attached to a sheet of bedding fabric which is of a size such that when the combination is placed over the mattress, the edges of the sheet may be tucked between the mattress and the

bed frame.

65 The attachments to the duvet and, if necessary, to the mattress or other part of the bed, may be permanent attachments or may be easily detachable from the duvet or mattress. The duvet may be sold together with the attachment or alternatively the attachments may be sold separately for permanent or removable attachment to the duvet.

70 Where the attachment is a strip or sheet of material it may be permanently sewn to the duvet or it might be provided with means for removable attachment to the duvet. For instance the duvet and the strip or sheet may be provided with a touch and close fastening such as press-stud fastenings or filamentous loop and hook fastenings (for instance, those sold under the trade mark "VELCRO").

75 The duvet may be provided with permanently attached strips, for instance raised seams, to which flaps or the like may be attached. Such strips allow a particularly simple form of attachment to be made and also may be utilised in the colour scheme of the duvet.

80 In another aspect the present invention provides a flexible sheet and means for attaching said sheet to flexible material, said means comprising a first location member attached and located adjacent to one edge of the flexible sheet, the sheet having an opening therein adjacent said member, an intermediate member having a bore therethrough and, extending from the exterior of said intermediate member to the bore, a slot, said slit being normally narrower than the width of said first location member, but deformable to be broader than said width to allow said first location member to be passed into the bore, the intermediate member then being rotatable relative to said sheet through said opening, and a second location member for positioning on one side of said flexible material and of a size such that it may be passed, together with surrounding sheet material through the slit into the intermediate member, in its deformed condition, to be located in the bore together with the first location member.

85 Accordingly the present invention, in its second aspect, allows attachments to be made to flexible material without the need for any penetration of the flexible material or any permanent attachment thereto which might weaken the flexible material.

90 The flexible material may for instance be a sheet of polyethylene used perhaps for covering purposes or it may be a duvet or the cover of a duvet. In the latter case a flap or sheet may be attached to the duvet without the material of the duvet (or its cover) being affected, and when necessary, the flap or sheet may be easily removed from the duvet.

95 Embodiments of the present invention will now be described by way of examples only and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

100 Figure 1 shows a first embodiment of a duvet in accordance with the present invention;

105 Figure 2 shows a flap for attachment to a duvet, forming part of a second embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 3 shows an intermediate member of the embodiment of Figure 2;

Figure 4 shows part of the flap of Figure 2 attached by the intermediate member to the cover of a duvet;

5 Figure 5 shows a third embodiment of a duvet in accordance with the present invention; and

Figures 6 to 12 show embodiments of duvet covers in accordance with the present invention.

Referring to Figure 1 of the drawings, there is shown a duvet 1 located within a duvet cover. To one side of the duvet cover near the bottom edge thereof there is sewn one element of a Velcro strip. On the same side under each of the side edges of the duvet are sewn further strips 4 and 5. In each case the other element of the Velcro strip is sewn to a flap of material 6 so that flap 6, which may be made of cotton fabric or similar bed sheet material, may be removably attached to the duvet, as shown in Figure 1. When the duvet is positioned on a bed each of the flaps 6 may be tucked in between the mattress and the bed frame so as to hold the duvet in position on the bed.

Referring to Figures 2 to 4 a flap of bed sheet material 11 has sewn therein near one edge thereof a length of flexible, rod, or similar member cord 13. Adjacent rod 13 are one or more longitudinally spaced apart slit-like openings 15. The rod 13 comprises the first location member of means for attaching the flap 11 to the cover 17 of a duvet.

30 An intermediate member is provided by a plastics tube 19 which has a longitudinal slit 21 extending the entire length of the tube. The tube material is such that it may be deformed to widen the slit from its normal position, which may be of zero width with the sides of the slits touching each other, to a width sufficient to allow the tube to be passed over rod 13 so that a portion of the cord is accommodated within tube 19. The tube may then be allowed to return to its normal position with the wall of the tube passing through one of the openings 15. When in this position the tube may be rotated relative to flap 11 and through opening 15. Preferably the material of the tube should be such that it will return to its undeformed condition of its own accord that is to say on release of the deforming force applied thereto.

45 The means for attaching flap 11 to the duvet cover 17 also includes a further length of flexible cord 23. This length of flexible cord 23 may be positioned inside the duvet cover and then it, together with surrounding duvet material may be pushed through the slits of each of the intermediate members 19, so that said intermediate member 19 accommodates both rods 13 and 23, as illustrated in Figure 4. In this way the flap 11 is attached to the duvet cover without any form of permanent attachment being made to the duvet cover. Thus there is no need for any part to be sewn to the duvet cover and in practice the attachment can be made very quickly by slipping the cord 23 into the cover and pressing it through the slits of each of the intermediate members, the latter already being positioned around the rod 13.

In another embodiment the intermediate member may be permanently attached to the flap and in a further embodiment the rod 13 may be omitted altogether.

Referring to Figure 5 of the accompanying drawings, a third embodiment of the duvet 31 in accordance with the present invention includes the usual cover 33. Provided a few inches inwardly from the bottom of the duvet is a raised seam 35. This raised seam 35 connects with similar raised seams 37 and 39 which extend part way along the sides of the cover 33. The raised seams may be formed simply by taking a tuck of material and stitching along the base of both layers of material of the tuck.

70 Provided at spaced apart positions along the raised seams are holes 41 passing through the seams, the edges of the holes being strengthened by stitching or in some other way, if desired.

80 Flaps 43 may be attached to each of the seams, each flap being in the form of two layers of material stitched together around three of the four sides, forming a sort of flat bag. At the fourth side the opposed edges of the flap are provided with mating male and female press-stud portions 45 so that the flap may be attached to a seam, as shown in Figure 5, by connecting together the male and female press-stud portions by passing the male portion through a corresponding hole in the raised seam. In another embodiment it is not necessary to provide the holes in the raised seams, the material of the seam merely being tapped between the male and female portions of the press-studs.

90 In another embodiment the press-stud method of fastening the flaps to the duvet cover is replaced by VELCRO type fastenings. Thus one element of the VELCRO fastening is sewn or otherwise attached to a raised seam and the other element of the VELCRO fastening is sewn or otherwise attached to the flap.

100 Where the flap comprises a double layer of material as mentioned above, it may of course be filled with, for instance, weights or blanket material, and may be allowed to hang down by the side of the bed or tucked between the mattress and the frame of the bed.

105 The above-mentioned strips or raised seams may be provided on both sides of the duvet cover so that either side of the duvet may be uppermost. Thus opposite sides of the duvet may be uppermost. Thus opposite sides of the duvet may be decorated differently. Furthermore, the raised seams themselves could form part of the colour scheme by, for instance, decorating them differently to the rest of the duvet cover. The raised seams may themselves be attached to the duvet cover rather than being formed integrally therewith.

A duvet in accordance with the invention may be specially decorated in the colours of organisations or associations such as football clubs. For instance, the duvet may be in one colour with the flaps and raised seams, if included, in one or more different colours. The duvet may be decorated on one side in the home colours of a football club and on the other side in the away colours. Furthermore, the decoration may include the badge or other insignia of the football club or other association or organisation.

120 In the above-described embodiment shown in Figure 5, holes were provided in the raised seams themselves. In another embodiment the holes, or indeed other attachment means such as hooks or

VELCRO strips, could be located on a further strip or ribbon which is attached, e.g. by stitching, to the raised seam.

Instead of the above-described flaps, a deep valance could be attached to the duvet. Such a deep valance may be permanently attached to raised seams or directly to the edge or near the edge of the duvet.

furthermore, it could be attached permanently to the edges if the duvet and then means be provided to attach it additionally a few inches inwardly of the edges of the duvet. In this way the valance may hang down in the normal way during the day from the edges of the duvet. Then at night the further attachment may be made if required to the inwardly located attachment points and the valance or valance attachments may be tucked in between the mattress and the bed frame.

Known duvet covers are made from two sheets of fabric of approximately equal shape and size, one sheet being placed directly upon the other and the edges sewn together. A gap is left in the sewn edges to enable the cover to be turned inside out on completion to conceal the sewn edges and to enable the duvet to be inserted.

Referring to Figure 6, the top sheet of fabric (2-2) of a duvet cover in accordance with the present invention is larger by some 10" than the lower sheet (b-b), so that when sewn together as described above the top sheet of fabric overlaps the lower sheet with the joining seam some 5" from the edge of the duvet cover. The two sheets of fabric may be of different textures and/or of different colours. The overlap thus enables the joining of the fabrics to be concealed.

In another embodiment (see Figure 7) prior to sewing the two sheets of fabric together a valance 1 is inserted in the joint, thus when completed and placed upon the bed the valance will hang closely to the mattress. The valance may be tucked under the mattress as previously described.

In a further embodiment (see Figure 8) prior to sewing the two sheets together, a strip of fabric 2 may be inserted in the joint and when completed a valance, flap or similar, may be attached to this strip of fabric by means of buttons, hooks, press-studs etc., to be attached and removed as required or by stitching to provide a permanent attachment.

When used without a duvet, the cover may be used as a bedspread, being placed on top of the bed with the bottom sheet uppermost. Thus the valance could conceal the overhanging material at the edges of the duvet cover.

In a further embodiment (see Figure 9), the duvet cover may be made from two fabric sheets of equal size and shape, and a third sheet of fabric in the form of a strip may be used to join the upper and lower sheets together.

In the embodiment shown in Figure 10, narrow pieces of fabric 1 are attached to the duvet cover between the upper and lower joints. These may run the full or part lengths of the joints and may have means of attaching further pieces of fabric which may form valances as previously described, or may be attached to, say, a bedspread. (The strips may be extensions of upper or lower sheets.)

In the embodiment shown in Figure 11, the valances 1 are shown attached to the duvet cover, in the case of an elderdown the valance attachments would alleviate the need for a separate bedspread.

In the embodiment shown in Figure 12, the duvet cover is shown with valances attached at the lower sheet joint and narrow strips of fabric attached at the upper sheet joint, these strips may be separate or be extensions of the upper or lower sheets or strip of fabric.

CLAIMS

1. A duvet (as hereinbefore defined) having a permanently attached strip to which may be secured means whereby the duvet may be restrained from movement relative to a bed on which the duvet may be positioned

2. A duvet according to claim 1 wherein the attached strip is a raised seam formed from the material of the duvet.

3. A duvet according to claim 1 wherein the attached strip is a separate strip of material sewn or otherwise permanently attached to the duvet.

4. A duvet according to any of the preceding claims wherein the restraining means includes a flap which, when the duvet is located on a bed, may be tucked under the mattress.

5. A duvet according to claim 4 wherein the flap is attachable to the strip by press stud fastenings.

6. A duvet according to claim 3 wherein the flap is attachable to the duvet by a touch and close fastening.

7. A duvet according to claim 1 and substantially as herein described.

8. A duvet substantially as described herein with reference to Figures 5 to 12 of the accompanying drawings.

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